

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2016

Ms. Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Re: San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority grant proposal to the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund

Dear Ms. Strauss:

We write to respectfully support funding of a grant request by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority for \$1.8 million. The water quality of San Francisco Bay will benefit from this grant in several tangible ways.

First, the project will prevent the flooding of East Palo Alto. Obviously, we hope this grant will benefit the community by avoiding the dislocation of thousands of hard working families living on modest incomes and prevent the loss of lives during a flood. However, flood waters raging through East Palo Alto also release toxins that quickly enter San Francisco Bay. These toxins are in garages and businesses and deep in the soil of contaminated sites in East Palo Alto. The estuary that partially surrounds East Palo Alto is, as you know, populated by many endangered and rare plants and animals. It will be of enormous protective value to the estuary when the city's flood protection level is increased to meet FEMA's 100-year flood standard and sea level rise.

Second, the project will be an example to other locations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and a demonstration that despite the complex tradeoffs that need to be made in sensitive areas, these types of projects can be successful. This project will be one of the first regional public projects in California to provide this level of fluvial flood protection and protection against sea level rise, which is why the Bay Conservation and Development Commission used it as a case study for other communities as they plan their climate change adaptation strategies. The project has benefited from its participation in the U.S. EPA-funded Flood Control 2.0 project and from a design that more than mitigates for its impacts.

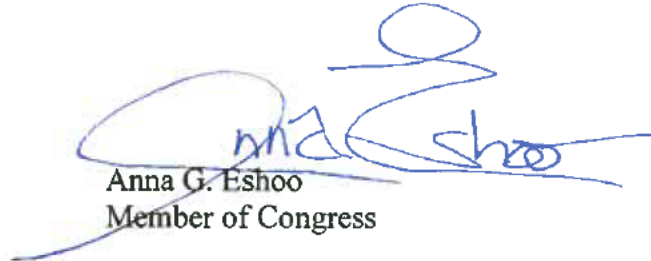
Third, the Project is consistent with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Objectives and Actions, as well the recommended strategies provided in The Baylands and Climate Change: Science Update, 2015. In particular, the project meets the CCMP goals for aquatic resources, wildlife, wetlands management, pollution prevention, water use, and land use/watershed management. For strategies related to climate change, the project will increase habitat connectivity and restore natural hydrology by degrading a levee to connect marshlands with the bay, and create new habitat for the endangered Ridgway's Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse.

The very tangible benefits and outcomes of the San Francisquito Creek Flood Reduction, Ecosystem Restoration, and Recreation Project are quantifiable in both the near and long term. We hope that you will give every appropriate consideration to this proposal for a grant from the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie Speier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna G. Eshoo". The signature is cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress